

TOBACCO USE

The Issue

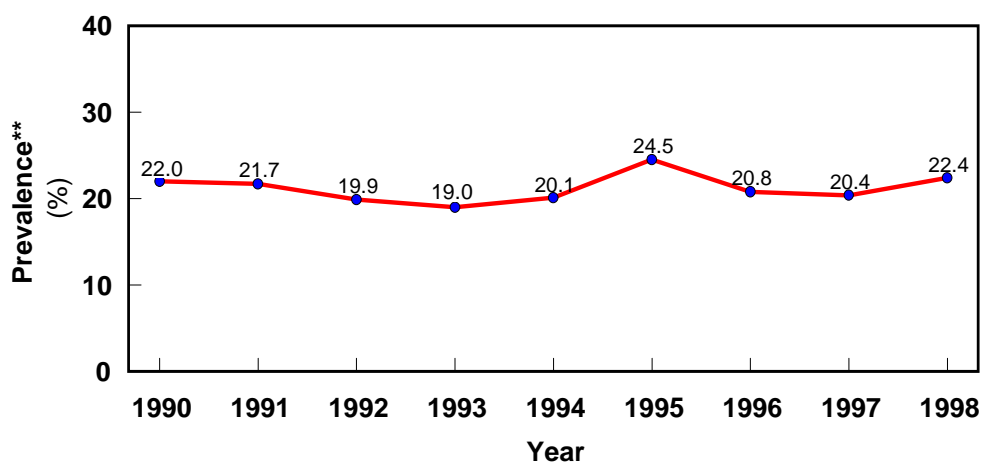
Tobacco use is the single, largest cause of preventable deaths, estimated at 7,500 every year in Maryland. Use of the State's portion of the proceeds from the Master Settlement Agreement with the tobacco industry provides a historic opportunity for Maryland to address cancer and other health problems associated with tobacco use among its residents.

Tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable death every year in the United States and in Maryland. This one risk behavior kills more Americans than motor vehicle crashes, AIDS, cocaine use, heroin use, homicide and suicide combined. Although most commonly associated with cancers, tobacco is a risk factor in many other diseases and conditions. Tobacco use costs the United States almost \$1 billion every week in medical expenses alone. This does not include loss of income due to illness and premature death.

Despite these alarming statistics, each day, more than 6,000 young people try a cigarette, and nearly 3,000 become daily smokers--a total of more than one million new smokers each year. The tobacco industry currently invests in excess of \$6 billion annually to promote the use of its products in the United States alone.

Tobacco-related disease is estimated to result in the premature death of 7,500 Marylanders each year. In the Fall of 1998, Maryland joined in a Master Settlement Agreement to settle the

Current Smokers* Among Maryland Adults Age 18 and Over, 1990-1998



*Current smokers is defined as respondents who have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and now smoke everyday or some days

**Prevalence estimates were weighted to the Maryland census population; Respondents who answered "Don't know" or "Refused" were excluded from the denominator.

Source: Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

states' lawsuits against the tobacco industry. Under terms of that settlement, Maryland will receive an estimated \$4.2 billion over the next 25 years, deposited to the Cigarette Restitution Fund (CRF). The CRF is a special fund from which the Maryland General Assembly may appropriate funding for programs dedicated to tobacco use prevention, cancer, or any other public purpose.

Topics, by jurisdiction, included in the Health Improvement Plan

Statewide - *Reducing the Use of Tobacco Products*

Dorchester County - *Tobacco Cessation: Young Adults, and Tobacco Use Prevention*

Somerset County - *Reducing Tobacco Use Among Youth*

Priority focus in other jurisdictions

Tobacco use is included as a priority area for FY 2000 in:

Allegany County • Anne Arundel County • Calvert County • Cecil County
Garrett County • Harford County • Washington County • Wicomico County
Worcester County

Highlights of HIP strategies recommended to decrease tobacco use

(for in-depth details, see the complete text of each state and county module)

- Reduce tobacco use among Maryland adults, school age youth (**Somerset County**), pregnant women (**State**), and young adults (**Dorchester County**).
- Decrease the number of children exposed to secondhand smoke (**State**) at home (**Dorchester County**).
- Increase the number of primary care providers who support smoking cessation for their patients who smoke. (**State**)
- Develop tailored smoking cessation strategies for high-risk population groups. (**Dorchester County**)
- Support community groups on their efforts to prevent smoking among adolescents. (**Somerset County**)

Statewide Partners

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) • Maryland Local Health Departments • Office of Health Promotion, Education, and Tobacco Use Prevention, DHMH • Supporters of the Task Force to End Smoking in Maryland